



SERRA CLUB OF DAVENPORT

780 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804

Pray for vocations

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Number 15

EX OFFICIO: Bishop Martin Amos **CHAPLAIN:** Fr. Thom Hennen **PRESIDENT:** Bill Barrett

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MISSION STATEMENT: *To foster and affirm vocations to the Ministerial Priesthood and vowed religious life in the USA and through this ministry, further our members' common Catholic faith.*

Mass and Breakfast: 1st Friday, April 4, 2014

Rosary	Rosary for our Bishop's intentions & Serra's prayers
6:40 a.m.	Leader of the Rosary: John Stratman
Mass:	7:00 a.m.; Celebrant: Bishop Amos; Reader: Peg Beaudry

Monthly Newsletter	If you have any information or suggestions you would like to have in the newsletter, please email me at pajbeaudry@hotmail.com . Thank you!
Bill Barrett, President	We are half way through Lent. That leaves us plenty of time to reflect and pray for our Lenten commitments. Please think about how you can help further the call for vocations in your own life and for the Davenport Diocese. Small crowd of Serrans at the diaconate ordination of Rev. Mr. Chris Young. We need to support all of our deacons and seminarians as we will have 5 ordinations in June. Please plan to attend. Have a fulfilling Lenten season. Thank you for your support. Bill Barrett
Fr. Thom Hennen Director of Vocations	Dear Serrans, Spring is here...at least officially. It's hard to believe that we are already in April. There have been some exciting things happening and more to come. Last Tuesday we celebrated the diaconate ordination of Chris Young at Assumption High School. It was a beautiful celebration and a rare opportunity for the entire student body and faculty of Assumption to witness an ordination. Deacon Chris will be ordained to the priesthood on June 7 along with Deacon Bob Cloos and Deacon Kevin Anstey. At that same Mass we will also celebrate the diaconate ordination of Bill Roush and Guillermo Trevino. Please keep these men in your prayers in these next two months. This weekend I will be bringing five or six young men down to Conception Seminary for the <i>Encounter With God's Call Weekend</i> . This is a great opportunity to visit a seminary and to learn about discernment. We also have one man attending the <i>Exploring Priesthood Weekend</i> this weekend at Mundelein Seminary. At the end of this month we will have the 6 th grade vocation days for the Catholic Schools of the Diocese. They will be Monday, April 28 at St. John Vianney for Scott, Muscatine and Clinton County Catholic schools and Tuesday, April 29 for the Catholic schools in the southern part of the Diocese and Iowa City. Something new this year is that we will be inviting 5 th graders from schools who do not have a 6 th grade. This will include Keokuk, Ottumwa and

	<p>Muscatine. Also, we are looking at putting on a similar day for 6th graders who do not attend a Catholic school for this coming fall. Lastly, we have at least one applicant for the seminary for next year and possibly a one or two more. So, keep up the prayers. May you have a truly blessed conclusion to Lent and a wonderful Holy Week and Easter!</p> <p>God bless, Fr. Thom</p>
Serra	Each Serra member is asked to submit names of five perspective new members.
Articles from the Catholic Messenger	<p>3/6/14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sisters of Humility celebrate 150 years in U.S.</u> CHMs strive to respond to the needs of the time. Risk-taking, anchored in prayerful discernment and trust in God, has been one of the defining qualities of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 150 years of ministry in the United States. From teaching and nursing to housing the homeless and promoting care of the earth, among other ministries, the Sister of the Humility of Mary, (CHM) have sought to respond to the signs of the times in addressing needs. For many years, “the ministries were more focused on Church institutions, and then later, particularly after the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), our ministries began to change as we had more freedom to follow our own talents in keeping with the mission of our community”. These ministries extended beyond Church institutions – to serving the poor, hungry, and homeless in this country and in Latin American, to outreach to Hispanics and other ethnic groups, to environmental stewardship and peace efforts. For some of the elder Sisters, ministry involves prayer and templative presence. “In our community there are a number of Sisters whose ministry now is more prayer and witnessing to God’s presence in the world wherever they are.” The Sisters of Humility have 104 vowed members and 94 associates throughout the United States and abroad. “Attention to our sponsored ministries is where a great deal of our energy goes; today we have three sponsored ministries: Humility of Mary Housing (HMHI) which is celebrating 25 years next year; Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat; and Humility of Mary Shelter,” Sr. Rickl said, “Each one of those is a response to a very great, unmet need. The CHM anniversary theme “Celebrate the Legacy, Pursue the Vision”, notes the challenge of continuing to serve the poor and the marginalized (a major focus of Pope Francis), and the call to long-range planning. In the celebration of the richness of God’s providence these past 150 years, Sr. Rickl said, “There are seeds of the vision we are pursuing into the future.” The group will celebrate with a series of public events around the state and additional celebrations are pending in Montana. Visit the CHM website www.chmiowa.org to find “The Flame” which is featuring a series of articles on 150 years of CHM history as well as the dates, times and locations of the celebrations. • <u>We go into the desert with Jesus</u> by Father Thom Hennen. Please go to the article to read the full article Father Thom has written describing what it is like to go into the desert with Jesus and what we can learn from his own desert experience, particularly from his temptations and how he responds to those temptations. • <u>Sister makes time for prayer each day.</u> The Catholic Messenger shares highlights from a day in the life of a Sister from a congregation based in the Diocese of Davenport: The Sisters of Humility. Next week, the Messenger will feature the Clinton Franciscans. For Sister Mary Ann Vogel, a member of Davenport-based Congregation of the Humility of Mary, most days start at 5 a.m., “The first three hours of the day are my time with God,” she says. That includes up to an hour in meditation, plus morning Mass at St. Anthony Church in Davenport. She learned the value of setting aside time each day for prayer during her formation with the congregation, which she entered in 1958, before the Second Vatican Council inspired reforms in her community. During her earliest years with the order, Sisters followed a strict daily regimen filled with liturgies and several sessions of communal prayer. Today, the Sisters find time for prayer often on their own and spend more of their days ministering to the broader community. Sr. Vogel works as finance director, volunteer coordinator and development committee chair at Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. (HMHI), a Davenport-based organization that helps single-parent families experiencing homelessness.

With a master's degree in business administration, she also works as finance director for Humility of Mary Shelter in Davenport. As a cabinet member with the Sisters of Humility, she meets regularly with other congregation leaders to plan for their order's future.

- Priests to get new assignments effective July 1, 2014:
 - Father Jason Crossen, 40, will, become the new pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Bettendorf. He has been pastor of the Ss. Mary & Mathias Parish in Muscatine, Iowa.
 - Father Stephen Ebel, 69, who retires June 30, will become vicar for priests.
 - Father Jacob Greiner, 32, will become administrator of St. Anthony Parish in Knoxville and Sacred heart in Melcher. On May 25, 2013, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Martin Amos at Sacred Heart Cathedral. He has been the parochial vicar at Ss. Mary & Mathias Parish in Muscatine since 2013.
 - Msgr. Francis Henricksen, 85, will be relieved of his appointments as vicar for clergy and vicar for religious.
 - Father Richard Okumu, 57, will become pastor of St. Mary Parish in Mechanicsville and St. Mary Parish in Tipton. On Aug. 8, 1981, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Gerald O'Keefe at Sacred Heart Parish in Newton. Fr. Okumu served on faculty at Assumption High School in Davenport from 1982-83 and then as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in Iowa City from 1988-90. After taking a leave of absence for studies, he was temporary administrator, administrator and then pastor of St. Peter Parish in Cosgrove and St. Michael Parish in Holbrook from 1991-96. He then served as pastor of St. Bridget Parish in Victor from 1996-2004 and sacramental minister, then pastor, of St. Patrick Parish in Brooklyn from 1998- 2004. He has been pastor of Church of the Visitation Parish in Camanche since 2004.
 - Father Joseph Wolf, 45, will become pastor of Church of the Visitation in Camanche while also remaining as pastor of Our Lady of the River Parish in LeClaire. On July 2, 1994, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Franklin at Sacred Heart Cathedral. He served as parochial vicar at Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace Parish in Clinton from 1994-97 and St. Alphonsus Parish in Davenport from 1997-98. He also served as sacramental minister at St. Andrew Parish in Buffalo and St. Mary Parish in Wilton from 1997-98. Fr. Wolf then took a leave of absence from 1997-2000 for canon law studies at St. Paul University and the University of Ottawa, both in Canada. Upon his return, he began service in the marriage tribunal of the Diocese of Davenport. He is the judicial vicar and vice chancellor for the diocese. He was administrator, then pastor of Our Lady of the River from 2008 to the present.
 - On Dec. 12, Bishop Amos announced the upcoming retirements of Fr. Ebel, Father David Hitch, Father Robert McAleer and Father John Stecher. He also announced Father James Vrba would become pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Bettendorf. On Jan. 30, the bishop announced that Father Tim Sheedy would become pastor of St. Mary Parish in Solon.
- Sister Nancy Miller, OSF, will facilitate a Lenten retreat on compassion. People are invited to a Lenten retreat, "Moving Into Compassion – Embracing Our Lepers," a The Canticle on March 22. The day focuses on encounters with lepers in Scripture and in Franciscan writings. The event begins with check-in at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m.
- Let's hear it for the nuns! Christina Capechhi describes the life of one sister, Mary Margaret Gefre's journey to becoming a cloistered nun in St. Paul, Minn. Today, at age 84, she marks the passage of that heart-wrenching winter by three days:
 - December 28 – the feast of the Holy Innocents, her boyfriend took her to the train station, giving her a peck on the cheek before driving away.
 - February 2, the Feast of the Presentation, Mary Margaret officially entered the Sisters of St. Joseph's community, with a bundle of hopes and fears.
 - February 14, the feast of St, Valentine, Mary Margaret received a love letter from her boyfriend. The sight of his neat cursive and urgent plea to come home opened a floodgate of emotion. "It all came back to me. It was very hard to give him up,

but I just knew my call by then. In my heart, I felt that this was my home.” To modern ears, this may sound like a tragedy, but Mary Margaret – who for 65 years now has been Sister Rosalind – describes it as a happily even after that keeps getting sweeter. Her life has been wildly, richly full; working as a nurse and witnessing childbirth, establishing an esteemed massage school to bring the healing touch to people in pain, fielding teary confessions and appeals for prayer at every turn. “I am so glad I chose the Sisterhood!” she said. “I would not exchange it for anything in the world.”

- First married man ordained priest for U.S. Maronite Catholic Church Father Wissam Akiki is the first married man to the ordained priest for the U.S. Maronite Catholic Church. On Feb. 27, with permission granted by Pope Francis, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan of the U.S. Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon ordained the married deacon at St. Raymond’s Maronite Cathedral in St. Louis. The Maronite Church is among 22 Eastern Catholic churches that are in union with Rome. The spiritual heritage of the Maronite Church is traced to a fourth-century hermit, St. Maron. These Eastern churches have an ancient tradition of allowing married men to become priests, although since the 1920s the practice generally has not been permitted in the United States, according to a press release from St. Raymond’s Cathedral. St. Raymond’s statement also noted that having a married priesthood should in no way “detract from the value that the Church finds in the vocation to celibacy. The celibate priesthood continues to be highly esteemed. We need to always keep in mind that it is a vocation to be married and a vocation to be a priest.” In the Latin-rite Catholic Church, including in the United States, celibate priesthood has been the normal practice, explained Msgr. Michael Witt, professor of Church history at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The Council of Trent, he said, realized that celibacy within the priesthood was a Church discipline. “In other words, the Church says that she wants her priests to be celibate so that we priests then stand in for Christ at the altar,” Msgr. Witt told the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the St. Louis Archdiocese. “There is a marriage covenant between the Church and Christ. And we as priest are supposed to image that.” In 692 during the Council of Constantinople, also known as the Council in Trullo, Msgr. Witt said, the council fathers “acknowledged the legitimacy of a married clergy, but it is highly restricted.” “A (married) priest is not allowed to be a bishop – in fact most bishops (in the Eastern Church) are monks and they must be celibate. And if you’re ordained a priest and you’re not married, then you’re expected to remain celibate the rest of your life, he explained. The important thing to remember about celibacy in Roman Church is that it is a covenantal relationship between the individual priest and the Church itself, Msgr. Witt said. “The priest is standing in for Christ – the “alter Christus” – and he stands in for Christ not only when he is performing the sacraments, but in a much broader sense than that. We are really married to the Church in a unique kind of way.”
- Bishops should be evangelists, not CEOs by Francis X. Rocca, Catholic News Service. Pope Francis said bishops should act not like ambitious corporate executives, but humble evangelists and men of prayer, willing to sacrifice everything for their flocks. “We don’t need a manager, the CEO of a business, nor someone who shares our pettiness or low aspirations,” the pope said Feb. 27. “We need someone who knows how to rise to the height from which God sees us, in order to guide us to him.” He stressed the importance of self-sacrifice in a bishop’s ministry, which he described as a kind of martyrdom. “The courage to die, the generosity to offer one’s own life and exhaust one’s self for the flock are inscribed in the episcopate’s DNA,” he said. “The episcopate is not for itself but for the Church, for the flock, for others, above all for those whom the world considers only worth throwing away.” Pope Francis listed several desirable virtues in potential bishops, including a “capacity for healthy, balanced relationships,” “upright behavior, orthodoxy and fidelity” to Church doctrine; and “transparency and detachment in administering the goods of the community.” The pope laid special emphasis on a bishop’s ability to evangelize and pray. In Preaching the Gospel, bishops should be appealing rather than censorious,

Upholding Church teaching “not in order to measure how far the world falls short of the truth it contains, but to fascinate the world, enchant it with the beauty of love, seduce it by offering the freedom of the Gospel.”

The Church doesn't need apologists for their own causes, nor crusaders for their own battles, but humble sowers who trust in the truth...bishops who know that even when night falls and the day's toil leaves them tired, the seeds in the field will be sprouting.”

Quoting from an address he gave to Vatican diplomats last June, Pope Francis said bishops should be “meek, patient and merciful,” embracing both spiritual and material poverty, and renouncing ambition for appointment to more important dioceses.

3/13/14

- Sisters work with people of all ages. Although many religious Sisters spent a portion of their careers in teaching or school administration, many today have spread their wings and help others in a variety of ways. As part of National Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14), *The Catholic Messenger* followed some members of religious communities in the Diocese of Davenport. Last week we followed a Sister of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary.

This week, we follow Sisters of St. Francis in Clinton. Sister Sadler works with residents of the Alverno in Clinton who reside in the memory wing. These are people with Alzheimer's, dementia and other memory loss issues. This is a second career for Sr. Sadler, who worked in retail for 30 years before entering religious life. When she entered, she looked at available options for ministry and decided to try activity director with senior citizens. She went through training and has worked for 17 years at various sites at Illinois and Iowa. Each day at the Alverno she gathers residents into the bird room for activities to keep their minds stimulated. The day begins with prayer, followed by tossing a beach ball to residents around the table. The rest of the activities vary, but include arts and crafts, trivia, card or dice games, simple cooking and baking, scrapbooking and singing.

Sister Theresa Judge was busy keeping score during a college women's basketball tournament in Durgin Center at Ashford University. In addition to scorekeeping – something she's been doing for 40 years – she also teaches English at the university.

Sister Martinelle Bonnell is an academic coach for at-risk students at Ashford. “I love my work,” she said as her final student left her office before spring break. Sr. Bonnell, known by many as “Dr. B,” said the skills she gained from years of teaching and counseling help. And since Ashford bought the university, she has a much more diverse and international student population to work with. “I bring my experience to them and they teach me, too.” Waunita Sullivan, associate director of student affairs, said Sr. Bonnell has a “bond with her students. She helps them explore different options for degrees and careers. She encourages them. It's a win-win for the students and campus. St. Bonnell said, “The Clinton Franciscans taught us to be ourselves. We are each our own individual.”

Although not a Clinton Franciscan, Sister Nancy Miller is a Dubuque Franciscan working at the Center for Active Nonviolence and Peacemaking. During a meeting Feb 28, she and coworkers Laura Anderson and Lori Freudenberg were discussing speakers and special events that relate to or are sponsored by their group. Sister Miller discussed social media and Anderson pulled up public service announcements on her computer. Anderson sends out electronic action alerts, stories on various issues and how to contact member of Congress with a simple click of a computer button. “She does the research for you”, Sr. Miller observed. Sr. Miller said Franciscan spirituality helps with finding the right relationship, networking and collaboration. “We take our topics to the public and urge ways to support nonviolence.”

Sister Joan Theiss shared her experiences of teaching and finance work during her 60 years with the Franciscan Sisters. Today she is involved in music, liturgy, gardening at the Canticle, and helps with switchboard duties.

Sister Jane McCarthy taught and worked in parish ministry for 30 years and is currently the Hispanic ministry when she was in Chicago area. She then worked at St. James Parish in

Washington before coming to Prince of Peace in 2008.

Sister Pauline Logsdon taught in schools, worked in Peru for 10 years where she helped set up catechism classes and start up parishes, and has taught in the Bahamas. Since retiring, she has started a book club at the Canticle, is part of the theology club, and writes thank-you notes on behalf of the Sisters.

The Sisters are glad to share the skills they have learned through their work and ministry with others.

- TEC retreat opens priest, teens, to God's love and grace. By Fr. Corey Close on Priesthood. Recently I had the privilege to attend my first TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) retreat, held at St. Joseph Parish in DeWitt. The retreat is for high school juniors and seniors, and we were lucky to have about 20 teens on the retreat. If you aren't familiar with TEC, it is very similar to retreats such as CEW (Christian Experience Weekend) or COR (Christ in Others Retreat), with team member talks interspersed with various activities to make the message more concrete. Prayer, Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation and Eucharistic adoration form cornerstones of the retreat that the talks revolve around. It is a powerful experience that helps teens to experience and live out their Catholic faith more deeply.

Diocesan Vocations Director Father Thom Hennen was the retreat's spiritual director, and I aided him in whatever ways I could. He gave the central talk, about the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. The teens were then able to develop a "living" stations of the cross. It was great to see how they incorporated the passion of Christ into their own daily experiences.

After a break, I gave a talk titled "Metanoia," which is a Greek word roughly meaning "to turn away from." Taken from the prayer of Ash Wednesday, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," the metanoia talk centered on the theme on the theme of conversion and of living the radical life of a discipline of Jesus Christ. It was a powerful experience for me to be able to convey that message through the story of my life, which I believe is a perfect example of metanoia. Not because I've been so good at turning away, but because I've been so poor at it!

When I was in high school and college, the age of the participants and most of the team members, I fought mightily against what I know my calling was: to be a priest. I desired marriage and refused to turn away from my vision for my life. By the grace of God, however, he gave me the courage to finally turn and to trust. Much of my life since has been peppered with similar struggles. It seems time and again I want "A" for my life while God wants "B"! However, when I finally have the courage (by grace!) to try God's way, my life is changed for the better. What a powerful experience to work with these juniors and seniors, and to share with them who and where I was when I was in their shoes.

When we choose our own way, as I did for about a decade, our lives end up being boring and unfulfilling. When we turn from our own plans and let Jesus decide, we will never be short of exciting, unexpected things to do and experience! In my daily life as a priest, no two days are the same, nor are there days that go totally as expected. It can be frightening at times, but I wouldn't trade it for a thing in the world!

After my talk, we had a communal penance service where individuals could confess their sins to Fr. Hennen, Father Paul Connolly and me. I love the sacrament of reconciliation, both as a penitent and as a confessor. It is always a powerful experience of God's mercy and love, especially when he works through you in ways you never expected.

The following day was Sunday and it was great to listen to the other talks and to celebrate Mass with the retreat participants. At the close of the day, we had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, during which I was able to lead and preach. It was an awesome time to experience the beauty of God's presence in the Eucharist. Fr. Thom and I made ourselves available for spiritual direction. It was a great privilege to help so many of these young people as they prepare for their crucial college years.

Overall, the retreat was a tremendous experience for me and it was a privilege to pray for and experience the faith of these young people.

A retreat is an awesome opportunity for us to pull away from the craziness and the

business of the world we live in and give God a weekend to work his love in our life. As James writes, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." (James 4:8).

3/20/14

- Seminarian finds peace, blessings on pilgrimage to the Holy Land by Guillermo Trevino. One of the blessings for seminarians preparing for the diaconate in the spring semester of third-year theology at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill., is the opportunity to go to the Holy Land for nine weeks.

Thirty-two seminarians were given the experience of a lifetime to walk in the footsteps of Jesus in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, and ending in Jerusalem.

I have been touched by pilgrims from all over the world bringing their traditions and customs. At the grotto of the Church of the Nativity, traditionally, groups of people sing a Christmas carol in their native language. I was most touched by being able to go and kiss the place where Christ was born. One time, I met a group of Methodists from Iowa and a student at Bethlehem University who worked in an internship for the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. The world is so small.

In Nazareth, one could see where Jesus stayed for most of his life. In Galilee, besides the beautiful view of the sea, I could see where Christ started his ministry. We've also stopped at many national parks where bedrock and crusader ruins were commonplace. I even did something I never do: got into the water, and went swimming in the Dead Sea. In the sea, one floats because of all the salt.

With nine weeks of pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we have been given an opportunity that few receive. Pope Francis will be here for three days in May (23-25) and thus, I've become truly grateful for these experiences.

In Jerusalem, it seems every corner has a major historical site. I have become more aware of Judaism and Islam by visiting the Western wall and the Dome of the Rock. As the Dome of the Rock, I met a Jewish woman born in Moline, Ill., saw a John Deere tractor and a group of pilgrims from the Quad-Cities area, where I am from.

Though the Temple Mount where the Dome of the Rock is located is such a point of contention, it was relatively peaceful on my trip. I appreciated the silence and peacefulness once inside.

Jerusalem offers many things to do and I've taken full advantage of visiting a lot of places. Going to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum, brought to reality the suffering of the Jewish people. As a former political science major, I went to the Supreme Court building and the Knesset where the Parliament meets. I was amazed at the open access to the government where the people are allowed to attend committee meetings.

What has struck me the most are the Via Dolorosa (the road on which people retrace Jesus' death walk to his crucifixion) and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. I have been fortunate to go three times with the Franciscans at 3 p.m. of Fridays to follow the Stations of the Cross. Though many people are here, I see that as a blessing because it shows that Christ still does matter to people. It seemed to me that the world stops while we walk past each station of the cross. Shopkeepers look at us in awe and silence.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is special for what it represents – the mysteries of our faith. In this place is Calvary, where Christ died on the cross and where he was buried. On Calvary, I met an orthodox priest who (if I have a beard and ponytail) looked like me. He even had my smile!

The culmination of the pilgrimage was when, along with 10 other classmates, I spent the night at the Holy Sepulcher. We pretty much had the church to ourselves and I was able to pray in silence for everyone, including all of us in the Diocese of Davenport. The only rule was to stay awake, which surprisingly I was able to do, easily.

I spent my birthday here (March 7), on a Friday in Lent. The date was special because three months from now, June 7, is my ordination as a deacon, God willing.

- Archbishop resumes public ministry. Archbishop Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis has returned to public ministry following a thorough investigation by police of an allegation that he had inappropriately touched a male minor in 2009. The Ramsey County Attorney's

Office announced the evening of March 11 that it has declined to file charges against the archbishop.

He voluntarily stepped aside from all public ministry in December while St. Paul Police investigated an allegation that he inappropriately touched a male minor on the buttocks in 2009 during a group photo session after a confirmation ceremony. The allegation was brought to the police Dec. 16, 2013.

"I am thankful to the St. Paul Police for their thorough investigation, as well as to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office for their professional work regarding this matter," Archbishop Nienstedt said. "I look forward to returning to public ministry during this Lenten season, especially during Holy Week and the great feast of Easter.

In a memo accompanying the announcement from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Richard Dusterhoft, the office's criminal division director, said the case was reviewed by an assistant county attorney "with many years of experience prosecuting child sex abuse cases," who agreed that there should be no charges in the case.

- Underground bishop of Shanghai dies. HON KONG. Bishop Joseph Fan Zhongliang of Shanghai, a prominent leader of China's underground Catholic Community, died after a brief illness March 16 at his home. He was 96.

Bishop Fan, like many other Catholic leaders, served in prison after he and other priests were arrested in 1955 during a government crackdown. From 1958 to 1978, Bishop Fan was imprisoned in Qinghai province, where his job was to carry corpses in a cemetery, reported the Asian church news portal uncanews.com.

China's estimated 10 million-12 million Catholics are divided between two communities: one that, for decades, remained underground because it did not accept compromises and political control after the Chinese communist takeover in the 1950s, and one that the Vatican has acknowledged accepted some compromises and political control in order to continue its existence. Both are faithful to the pope, and both have faced persecution from Chinese authorities.

- Parish's retreat for adults with disabilities marks 10 years.

Ten years ago, Karen Kilburg of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Davenport organized a retreat for adults with disabilities that has become a cherished parish tradition.

The success of that first Adult with Disabilities Renewal Day has encouraged Kilburg to offer the event year after year at Our Lady of Victory with help from family, friends and other parishioners.

This year's event paid tribute to the first retreat by repeating its theme: "Stop for God".

Held Feb. 22, the retreat focused on how street signs remind people to take time and "stop for God" in everyday life. All together, 57 individuals from throughout the region participated in the event – 21 adults with disabilities and 36 volunteers, including staff.

Deacon Wagner, a nurse by profession, previously volunteered as a nurse at the retreat. He also participates in activities with retreat participants and team members. Newly ordained last July, Deacon Wagner served as deacon for this year's retreat. "I led the prayer service, read Scripture and gave a homily. This was a very rewarding and challenging task. The challenge with giving a homily to the intellectual disabled community is that the homily must be adult in focus, but also presented in a clear fashion, not simple, but direct and communicated clearly.

"The main message I conveyed was that they (the participants), being baptized, were called to minister to others, just as all Christians are. I told them that they had many people in their lives - family, friends and those who cared for them – and that they could be Jesus to these to these people, that they could bring joy and faith in the lives of other."

- Priests live like the sheep they shepherd. JOSE LEON SUAREZ, Argentina.

The doors used to stay shuttered on the chapel of Our Lady of the Miracle chapel in a shantytown on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, opening only on Saturdays for catechism classes and Sundays for a single, sparsely attended service.

Nowadays, the chapel opens early and stays late, offering everything from a safe place for kids to play soccer to packed Sunday services. It also provides a community center and spiritual home for often-stigmatized shanty dwellers, whose neighborhoods are known as “Las Villas de Miseria,” or “Misery Villages”.

It embarrassed me to go to church,” said Sebastiana Solabarrieta, who volunteers in the chapel’s Caritas clothing bank. “Now, everyone is here.”

Churchgoers like Solabarrieta credit Father Jose Maria di Paola, pastor at the chapel, with bringing people back to Catholicism over the past year in Villa La Carcova, where evangelical groups had gained ground and problems like poverty and drugs persist. But Fr. Di Paola – famous in Benos Aires as “Padre Pepe” for his work with the downtrodden and drug addicts – and his fellow “curas villeros” (shanty priests) provide an example of the “poor Church” of which Pope Francis speaks, in which priests leave their parishes to provide pastoral attention to people on the periphery.

The priests have become an institution in metropolitan Buenos Aires, where former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio made them his foot soldiers in implementing his vision of a Church serving society and priests being “shepherds living with the smell of sheep.”

Fr. Di Paola identifies with the pope’s description of pastors being close to the people: He, like others in the area, lives in a wooden home with no water.

“Previously, those working in the villas came from outside. You were in a parish and you would go to the nearby villas for a visit. Now, we live in the villas,” said Fr. Di Paola.

The reality is that you share experiences with the people like just another neighbor. You do all the Church’s work from inside the barrio, not from the outside.”

“People have been coming back to church” – including, Ledesma insisted, evangelicals – “since Pope Francis was elected and because of the priest. We can’t forget Pepe’s part.”

Priests have been in the villas since the first shanties were formed by people from the provinces seeking opportunities in the capital, although they weren’t always well seen by the government, in part because their presence was seen as legitimizing squatters’ activities. In 1974, Father Calos Mugica, whom Fr. Di Paola considers an inspiration, was murdered, presumably by an anti-communist group, after celebrating Mass.

Pope Francis acted out of genuine concern for the poor, although the presence of priests in the villas has achieved other objectives, such as slowing the growth of evangelical groups, Fr. Di Paola said.

“He thinks that in the mouths of the poor, you’ll find the Gospel, Fr. Di Paola said of the pope. “He doesn’t see the poor person as someone who only has to be helped, but someone who can teach you a lot.”

“It amazes the world that we live in poor places,” said Father Juan Issamendi of Our Lady of Caacupe Parish, named for the patroness of Paraguay.

“The poor have a lot of faith. It’s beautiful as a pastor to experience,” he said.

3/27/14

- Assumption High hosts historic ordination. Teacher Chris Young ordained a deacon at school.

Students at Assumption High School witnessed a lesson in faith in real time, up close and personal, when religion teacher Christ Young was ordained a Roman Catholic deacon March 25 at school.

Bishop Martin Amos ordained Young, a married, former Episcopal priest, on the Feast of the Annunciation – which recalls Mary’s assent to become the mother of the Son of God.

Less than three months from now, the newly ordained deacon will be ordained to the priesthood with two other deacons – Kevin Anstey and Bob Cloos. For Deacon Young, it’s been an especially long process. His acceptance for ordination to the priesthood require permission from Pope Francis, based on a 1980 pastoral provision granting admission to Catholic ministry of married, former Episcopal priests.

Deacon Yong said he had explained the difference between transitional and permanent deacons to juniors in his Sacraments class last semester. In addition, he went over what would

happen at the Mass with his classes in the days leading up to it. After discussing the matter of school-wide catechesis on both the pastoral provision and the ordination rite with Bishop Amos, it was decided that the most accurate and consistent way to educate everyone on these topics was for Father Thom Hennen, the Davenport Diocese’s vocations director, to take a few minutes prior to the ordination to address the whole assembly. This way, everyone present would have benefit of this information. As vocations director, Fr. Hennen also had the role of testifying to Bishop Amos that Young was a worthy candidate for ordination to the transitional diaconate. The bishop then declared: “We choose this man, our brother, for the Order of the Diaconate.”

The audience which included the entire Assumption student body, as well as faculty and staff members, Deacon Young’s wife, Jody, and two of their three children, applauded exuberantly. In his homily, Bishop Amos reflected on the Blessed Virgin Mary’s “yes” to God and the yeses that Deacon Young, Jody, and all of the faithful must consider in their walk with the Lord. The bishop said that transitional deacons (those preparing for priesthood) have a threefold function or duty of office, as do permanent deacons: “They have a ministry of Word, Worship and Service.

“...Christopher, your very name means ‘Christ-bearer’. We thank you for your ‘yes’ as we now ordain you to the diaconate.”

Assumption students had the privilege of serving many ministerial roles during the Liturgy of Ordination to the Diaconate: lectors, cantors, choir members and altar servers among them. For Jody, the Mass especially moving, “My father passed away last night. I was thinking of all the Masses said for him.” She expressed gratitude for her husband’s ordination and for March 25 being “Mary’s day.” “It was a wonderful day in every aspect.”

- Weber installed to ministry of lector. Chris Weber, a first-year major seminarian for the Diocese of Davenport, was installed in the ministry of lector. The celebration took place Feb. 14 at St. Mary Chapel on the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity campus in St. Paul, Minn. Weber was installed by Archbishop Emeritus Harry Flynn of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese.
- Fr. Striegel honored for chaplain work at VA. Iowa Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System has selected Father Robert Striegel, a priest of the Davenport Diocese, as employee of the month for April 2014.

A surprised Fr. Striegel received the award March 18 at the Iowa City health facility in appreciation of his dedication to its veteran patients and to the mission of the VA health care system. Bishop Martin Amos attended the ceremony honoring Fr. Streigel, who serves as a part-time chaplain at the VA health facility and as priest moderator and sacramental minister at SS. Joseph & Cabrini Parish, Richland.

“Working on a team with six other chaplains, Fr. Striegel “is consulted as a spiritual leader, on the most difficult patients. He is able to develop a rapport with patients when others are not able to establish one.”

The priest chaplain also ministers to the patient’s family members and to his fellow employees, his nominators said. “His extraordinary care is also in the smiles that an observer notices when Chaplain Striegel walks into a room to visit a patient. He is always welcomed and has developed a unique and deeply emotional and spiritual connection with many of the inpatient veterans.”

April Priest Ordination

No April ordination anniversaries.

Pope says bishops, priests need prayers, grace to be holy, loving
MARCH 26 2014 GENERAL AUDIENCE

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The world's bishops, priests and deacons need people's prayers and encouragement to continually deepen their relationship with Jesus and serve their community with love, Pope Francis said.

A minister of God who does not nourish his love for Christ, his church and his flock "inevitably ends up losing sight and an authentic sense of his service and the joy that comes from a deep communion with Jesus," he said.

"Priests, bishops, deacons must care for the Lord's flock with love, and if they don't do it with love, they're unnecessary," he said March 26 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope returned to a series of audience talks on the sacraments, focusing on the sacrament of holy orders.

Like the sacrament of marriage, the sacrament of pastoral ministry is a special way to follow Christ, give the gift of love and build up his church, he told the estimated 80,000 people in the square.

Jesus told his apostles to care for his sheep with the power of the Holy Spirit, not their own human efforts, and to do so "according to his heart," that is, with the same love Jesus had for others.

A pastoral minister "dedicates his whole being to his community and loves it with his whole heart: It is his family," Pope Francis said.

Those who are ordained become leaders of the Christian community, but, for Jesus, leadership is "offering your authority as service," the pope said.

A priest or "a bishop who isn't at the service of the community does no good," he said.

The pope said it is important to constantly renew and nourish the grace and joy of ordination through prayer, daily celebration of the Eucharist, penance, going to confession regularly and listening to the word of God, "which is our daily bread."

Bishops, priests or deacons who do not do these things diligently throughout life "lose communion with Jesus and they become mediocre, which is not good for the church," the pope said.

"That's why we have to help bishops and priests" to get closer to God with prayer and the sacraments and to help them to become more holy.

In various languages, the pope asked people to pray for the church's ministers so that they may be more holy, generous, authentic and merciful and especially to pray for those who are "most in need of our prayers" -- those who are experiencing difficulties or feeling discouraged.

The pope also urged young men to listen carefully to God's call to pursue a religious vocation.

After all, how do people become priests, the pope asked. "Where are they selling the admission tickets?"

"It's not something that's sold," he said: God makes the first move, calling the individual, asking him to become a priest.

So if any young men have felt in their hearts the desire "to spend one's whole life in service, to catechize, baptize, confess, celebrate the Eucharist, to heal the sick," it is God who planted that seed, which then needs prayer and care so that it may "grow and give fruit to the whole church."

At the end of the audience, a large delegation from Philadelphia, led by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, met with the pope.

The delegation of government, religious and community leaders included Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. They were in Rome March 24-26 to meet with Vatican officials to plan the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia Sept. 22-27, 2015, and to urge the pope to attend.

The group hand-delivered letters and drawings for the pope from Pennsylvania students, and a Jewish couple gave the pope a dreidel, a wooden spinning top played during Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish holiday known as the festival of lights.

The text of the pope's audience remarks in English is available online at www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/audiences/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140326_udienza-generale_en.html.

The text of the pope's audience remarks in Spanish is available online at www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/audiences/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140326_udienza-generale_sp.html.